



IT WAS THE CAT

Before the marble fire place in her palace sat Cinderella with her three quests whom she had invited to talk over a situation of great gravity. It seemed as if the era of fabulous fortunes without work was coming to an end. There was Jack, the famous Beanstalk-Climber, whose prize hen was ill and now refused to lay anymore golden eggs; Aladdin, whose magic lamp failed to reveal any more hidden treasure ; King Midas, who had discovered that his golden touch could be more of a curse than a blessing and had been compelled to relinquish it, and Cinderella herself whose state coffers were nearly empty.

"Plead as I may," she cried, "neither my fairy god-mother, nor any of my other relatives have appeared to help me. As far as I can see we are all facing ruin."

It was just at this moment that there was a loud scratching at the door and before anyone could speak in bounded none other than the wonderful Puss-In-Boots himself, in all his fine array.

"Good evening, friends," he cried, sweeping off his plummed cap and advancing, without further ceremony to the center of the circle. "I heard of this meeting and I believe you need the advice I have come to give."

"If you've come to tell us to go to work," retorted Aladdin, "We won't do it. There must be some way we can remain rich without so deaming ourselves."

"There is indeed," replied puss. "It is the same formula by which I made my master so well off he is now, willing to share it with other distinguished personages like yourselves. Once applied it goes on automatically increasing prosperity for the few, while the many have no choice but to cooperate although it makes them poorer to do so."

"Tell us at once, please," urged Jack, "I used my last golden egg this morning."

"All you need to do," Puss assured them, "is to acquire LAND-- no matter how, and then collect the RENT. Use this income for yourselves, not for the people whose need of Land on which to live and work, creates its value. Get the Land by royal decree, a few babbles, or pretend to find some flaw in the present owner's title. There are no better golden eggs to be had, Jack, than a few investments in LAND!"

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